

Leicester, Mass^{ts}, March 29/64.



Dear friend Webb,

Now I have 2 letters of yours to acknowledge, & a remittance in each. They came duly & safely - one for £39.6.8, the other for £6.; the latter being for Mr. Gage. I have written to Mr. G., & sent the letter to O. Johnson's care - she is somewhere (or was lately) in the Western States, speaking & striving to arouse more interest in behalf of the freed people. I shall follow your suggestion, & deduct postage charges from the amount I get for this bill, & send the balance to her, which will be I doubt not \$46. & 47. I sold the £39. bill at 80% premium - a fearful rate indeed; that was a trifle above the market; but my brother, who always deals liberally by me in such (& other) matters chose to make it that. I have paid their dues to the Amⁿ. Socy, & Liberator, & am ready for the Standard. I shall give Mrs. Gage your advice about writing in person to W^m. Allen. I receive the "Spectator" frequently, & have sent several nos. of it to Richard. I wonder, did he get my letter in New York, prior to his sailing thence? I am very glad you hear from him; I think he would have done well to wait here a little longer, & get some letters from Eastern merchants to their correspondents in Calif.^a George Thompson is having a series of glorious meetings in this country. The Boston meeting - perfect of its kind, gave the

key-note, - New York was no whit behind ~~it~~ in power or moral effect; Springfield, (Mass.) which mobbed him in 1850, gave him a most enthusiastic reception & a crowded meeting. New Bedford, Lawrence, & Lowell, in this State, - Portland in Maine, - & other places have vied with the cordiality & zeal of the larger cities; and last night old Worcester (which invited him to come & speak there, in 1850, when the ^{Boston} mob hounded him down in Faneuil Hall, the Mayor & City Police encouraging them) gave him their welcome, in a most handsome manner. My wife & daughter, & several other Leicester people, were there to see, & hear; and Thompson spoke with more fire, & intensity, than I have heard at any previous time on this visit. I have been writing a little acc^t. of it to the Standard, and so will not go right over the ground again, but his great point was to exhort & stir the Amⁿ. people to finish the work they have in hand, & make a complete end of Slavery. He said that the solid worth & strength of the British people had sided with us, from the moment that Mr. Lincoln's Procl^m. of Jan. 1./63 gave unmistakable proof of an antislavery purpose in our Govt. & people; that their support was sure, & would increase, &

might be thoroughly relied upon, if the U. States
would take a bold & uncompromising stand for
the destruction & eternal prohibition of Slavery. - We
all feel, & know, that this is our duty, as well as
our best policy, & that, whether England comes
to our side, or stands with folded arms, watching,
or joins our enemies. We feel quite sure,
with G. F., of the moral sympathy of the great
body of the English common-people, & of the
wisest & noblest among her educated classes; &
we know that their influence is a very marked
& strong one with the Govt. & with the governing
classes, - as Thompson well proved last night.
But those same governing & wealthy classes have
to many ways, with their money & other means
of influence, of helping the Slavery & rebel side,
that they make easy shift to defeat the policy
of the Government & the choice of the bulk
of the people, and in fact have rendered
England's still-boasted neutrality a complete
misnomer in many respects. But it is no
small thing to be assured of the cordial & steady
moral support of the great body of the nation,
and we shall have faith in that, & hold on to
it as long as we can. Napoleon is a scoundrel.
He has been quietly & steadily working, from the first,

as I now believe & think I can see, to help the
Rebellion, & at the same time further his own
schemes of power & personal aggrandizement;
Maximilian - if he ever gets to Mexico - is of course
^{to be} only the tool of Napoleon & the Catholic Church; &
the Slaveholding Secessionists will do anything, yield
anything, submit to anything, no matter how humili-
ating, at the hands of European imperialism & priests,
rather than acknowledge themselves beaten by the
"damned Yankees", whom they have always affected
to despise as their inferiors, & fit only to do their dirty
work (- & I have had reason enough to think so of ~~very~~
many Yankees, too, - dirty dogs, who have lied to the
people, deceived & misled them, & for pay worn the
Southern collar, & ^{unably accepted} ~~accepted~~ the Southern scorn & contempt;)
the Southerners (the leaders, & slaveholders) look upon the
Northern uprising just as they would upon an insurrection
of their own slaves, - insolent & insufferable, - & would
treat it in the same way, if they could. For one,
I hope Napoleon & Maximilian will show their hands
plainly for Slavery; & believe 'twill be their sure
defeat to do so. - But time fails me for more.
Thanking you & Alfred, again & again, for all you do
for us, and your steadfast & zealous friendship -
(shall I say "faithful among the faithless" - no! not
just that but "among the doubting, vacillating, and
dim-sighted, I think I may) - & hoping yet to see you
on these shores. I am, ever truly Yrs, S. May Jr.

I think they will hate me for this. 112 Henry Street